

Chapter 1 ***God Speaks***

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. 1 *Samuel* 3:10

To the Parents:

In chapter 1 your child learned the following:

- To identify how God is present in the world
- To locate Scripture passages in the Bible
- To express praise and thanks to God

The Old Testament tells the wonderful story of how God’s presence and providence were gradually revealed to the Israelites as they struggled to survive their long journey in the desert. The chosen people often brooded over the whereabouts of God. Sometimes they felt abandoned by the very God who had promised them a homeland. Yet, their ever-present God answered their pleas. They complained about famine, and God rained down manna (see *Exodus 16:4*). They were thirsty, and Moses struck a rock that spouted water (see *Exodus 17:6*).

When you look closely at your own lives through the eyes of faith, you see that same present and provident God—a God who speaks to you through Scripture, through the beauty of creation, through family and friends, and through inexplicable everyday happenings.

With Your Child:

1. Sit down with your child in a comfortable place. Talk about the first chapter. Let your child tell you what he or she has learned.
2. Make a special place for your family Bible. Maybe you can set aside a place on a shelf or on a small table. Put a candle near the Bible. Put a plant or flowers nearby. This can remind you that God speaks through creation as well as through the Scriptures.
3. Together read the story of Julian of Norwich found on the Review and Explore page.